

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 576-2220

Public Notice No.

Notice of Public Hearing

For

Proposed Amendments

To

Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2006-0021

For

City of Rio Dell

Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF)

NPDES Permit NPDES No. CA0022748

WDID No. 1B83134OHUM

Humboldt County

On the basis of preliminary staff review and application of lawful standards and regulations, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, adopted Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2006-0021 for the City of Rio Dell Wastewater Treatment Facility on May 17, 2006. However, during the May 17 public hearing, the City of Rio Dell raised concerns about newly imposed effluent limitations. As a result, the Board agreed to revise the permit to include interim effluent limitations and a compliance schedule for final effluent limits. A 30-day period was announced beginning July 7, 2006 to request public comment on the amended effluent limitations and associated compliance schedule. Regional Water Board staff received comments from the City of Rio Dell, which resulted in further modifications to the interim effluent limitations as well as a proposed re-rating of the facility from a major to a minor discharger. Collection system permit language has also been updated to reflect recent statewide program changes. Amendments to the permit may be considered significant and therefore an additional 30-day public comment period will be opened to allow comments on the changes.

Public Hearing Procedures

A public meeting to consider comments and objections to the proposed amended permit language is scheduled for December 6, 2006, in Santa Rosa at 9:00 a.m. or as announced in the Regional Water Board's agenda. The meeting will be held at the Regional Water Board Hearing Room, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Santa Rosa, California. At the hearing, the Regional Water Board will consider whether to affirm, reject, or modify the proposed changes to the waste discharge requirements.

The Discharger and interested persons must submit to the Regional Water Board office at 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California, 95403, written copies of all technical reports, testimony, and other evidentiary material concerning this issue by 5:00 p.m. on October 23, 2006. This written material will be submitted to the Regional Water Board members and all interested persons along with the full agenda materials.

Written material received after the above date will not be accepted, except at the discretion of the Regional Water Board Chair. Untimely written material will not be accepted or incorporated into the administrative record if doing so would prejudice the Discharger or the Regional Water Board staff. The Chair may choose to modify this rule upon a showing of severe hardship (California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Sections 648.1 and 648.4).

All those who plan to testify at the hearing must submit written statements to the Regional Water Quality Control Board by October 30, 2006. The statements should provide the name of the witness, their qualifications (if an expert), and the scope of their intended testimony. Testimony at the above-scheduled hearing may summarize or explain timely submitted or late accepted written evidence, but shall not add new evidence. The time constraints for oral testimony or comments will be set by Regional Water Board Chair and usually will allow no more than 10 minutes for Regional Water Board staff and the Discharger and three minutes for other interested persons. A timer may be used and speakers are expected to honor the time limits. Where speakers can be grouped by affiliation or interest, such groups will be expected to select a spokesperson and not be repetitive.

Document Review

The tentative Order related documents and comments received are on file and may be inspected or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.

Catherine E. Kuhlman
Executive Officer

September 23, 2006

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